Projection for medical tourists

1996. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:
DR. M. A. M. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrived in India during the last three years for medical treatment-cum-tourism;

(b) whether the actual figures are far below the projections made during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of 'Medical Visas' issued during the above period for the foreign tourists visiting the country for medical treatment purposes;

(e) whether Government has taken any steps to achieve the future targets and to boost the medical tourism in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (g) Ministry of Tourism does not collect separate information on medical tourist traffic to India and no projection/target about medical tourists has been made. However, the steps taken by the Government to promote medical tourism include promotion in overseas market through brochure, CDs, films and other publicity materials.

India Tourism Office in China

1997. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China had agreed to open their tourism offices on either side of the border under the Friendship Through Tourism Programme;

(b) whether China has already opened its tourism office in India last August with India still undecided about the locations of its office in China; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in opening the India Tourism Office in China and whether it will be well before the ensuing Beijing Olympics?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) As per the Action Plan adopted for celebrating 'India China Year of Friendship Through Tourism' both countries agreed to open their tourism offices in each other's country. China has already opened its tourism office in New Delhi in August, 2007 and Government of India has approved the opening of India Tourism Office in Beijing, China.

Visa-on-Arrival

1998. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to grant visas on arrival to promote tourism;

(b) whether it is a fact that in most Western Cities, our consulates grant visas the same day;

(c) whether receipt of visa applications has been outsourced in some cities abroad; and

(d) how does Government ensure that the tourists are getting good service?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. However, at present, Ministry of Home Affairs has not agreed to the proposal regarding Visa-on-Arrival scheme due to the prevalent security scenario.

(b) Indian Missions abroad including those in Western cities grant visas expeditiously in keeping with the relevant norms. Visas are granted on the same day or the next day of the receipt of application except in the case of applications which require prior approval of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir. At present 24 Missions/Posts have already started outsourcing of collection of visa application forms.

(d) Tourists intending to visit India are provided prompt and courteous services when they visit Indian Missions/Posts abroad for seeking Indian visas.

Entry tickets for monuments

1999. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is maintaining two tier entry fee for ticketed monuments for foreign and domestic tourists;

(b) if so, the case of Indian tourists when they visit foreign countries;

(c) whether the two tier entry fee is causing disrespect to India as a tourist destination; and

(d) whether Government is considering to evolve mechanism to do away with the existing practice of two tier entry fee for all foreign as well as domestic tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. The rates of entry fee charged by the Archaeological Survey of India at its ticketed monuments are as under:

	Ticketed World Heritage Monuments	Other ticketed monuments
(i) Citizens of India, SAARC and BIMSTEC countries	Rs.10/-per head	Rs.5/-per head
(ii) Others	Rs. 250/-per head	Rs. 100/-per head

(b) Data/information regarding rates of entry fee to monuments in foreign countries is not maintained by Archaeological Survey of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.